

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, reconsideration of the instant application, as amended herewith, is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Claims 1-61 are presently pending before the Office, with claims 11-32, 43-55, 57, 58, 60 and 61 being withdrawn due to a restriction requirement.

No claims have been canceled; however, Applicant herein authorizes the cancellation of the withdrawn claims upon allowance of the elected claims.

Applicant has amended the specification. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. Applicant is not intending in any manner to narrow the scope of the originally filed claims.

The Examiner's Action mailed March 15, 2004 (Paper No. 20040309) and the references cited therein have been carefully studied by Applicant and the undersigned counsel. The amendments appearing herein and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract and the specification for the reasons stated 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicant herein submits that the amendments to the Abstract and Specification made herein should obviate the Examiner's objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Relying on 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner has rejected the subject matter of claims 1-10, 33-42, 56 and 59 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 7, 18, 19, 35, 36, 38, 48, 49, 61, and 62 of U.S. Patent No. 6,540,966 to the applicant herein. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration, given applicant's submission of a terminal disclaimer herein.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 538-3800 would be appreciated.

Very respectfully,

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